

Toy store stops selling drug-dealer dolls

24th October, 2014



The store Toys R Us has stopped selling a drug-dealer doll because of an online campaign. The store was selling action figures from the popular American TV series 'Breaking Bad'. One of the figures came with bags full of drug money and blue

crystal drugs. A mother, Susan Myers, started an online petition to get Toys R Us to stop selling the toys. More than 3,000 people signed the petition and the store took the dolls off of its online store. Ms Myers wrote on Change.org: "Toys R Us is well known around the world....However their decision to sell a Breaking Bad doll, complete with a detachable sack of cash and a bag of [drugs], alongside children's toys is a dangerous [move away] from their family friendly values."

Ms Myers explained that although Breaking Bad was a popular show with adults, dolls from the show did not belong on a toy store shelf next to Barbie dolls and Disney characters. She said: "Parents and grandparents around the world shop at Toys R Us, online and in stores, with their children. They should not be forced to explain why a certain toy comes with a bag of highly dangerous and illegal drugs, or why someone who sells those drugs deserves to be made into an action figure." A Toys R Us spokesperson said: "The product packaging clearly notes that the items are intended for ages 15 and up. The toys [were] located in the adult action figure area of our stores."

Sources: news.sky.com / telegraph.co.uk / change.org

Writing

Dolls and action figures are not good for children. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

toy store / doll / online / action figure / drug money / online petition / decision / family-friendly values / popular / Disney characters / packaging / ages 15 and up

True / False

- A toy store was selling dolls to drug dealers. T / F
- A toy store was selling a doll based on a TV series about a drug dealer. T / F
- The doll came with a bag of pretend drugs. T / F
- Over 30,000 people signed an online petition against the dolls. T / F
- A woman said the drug-dealer doll should not be next to Barbie. T / F
- The woman asked the toy store to teach children that drugs are bad. T / F
- The box the doll comes in says the product is unsuitable for under-18s. T / F
- The store put the dolls in the adult section of its stores. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. stopped | a. wrapping |
| 2. well known | b. ceased |
| 3. detachable | c. standards |
| 4. cash | d. removable |
| 5. values | e. very |
| 6. popular | f. famous |
| 7. highly | g. well liked |
| 8. packaging | h. section |
| 9. intended for | i. money |
| 10. area | j. aimed at |

Discussion – Student A

- How important are dolls for children?
- What's the difference between a doll and an action figure?
- What were (are) your favourite dolls and action figures?
- What do you think of the idea of a drug-dealer action figure?
- Was the woman right to start the campaign?
- Would you have signed the petition?
- Why do you think Toys R Us sold a drug-dealer figure?
- What do you know about the show 'Breaking Bad'?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. because of an online | a. series |
| 2. the popular American TV | b. action figure area |
| 3. 3,000 people signed | c. campaign |
| 4. alongside | d. values |
| 5. family-friendly | e. toy store shelf |
| 6. a popular show | f. children's toys |
| 7. did not belong on a | g. packaging |
| 8. product | h. ages 15 and up |
| 9. intended for | i. the petition |
| 10. located in the adult | j. with adults |

Discussion – Student B

- What's the best toy store in the world (and why)?
- What would you tell a child about the drug-dealer figure?
- What other toys do you think are bad for kids?
- Why did a company turn a drug dealer character into an action figure?
- Is it OK if Toys R Us put the doll in the adult section of its stores?
- What is the use of action figures?
- How do you think the TV show producers feel about this?
- What questions would you like to ask the Toys R Us boss?

Spelling

- an online iacpmagn
- blue scrylta drugs
- started an online tpoitine
- More than 3,000 people gdnsei
- Iniegsado children's toys
- family friendly alusve
- a uopplra show with adults
- ebnolg on a toy store shelf
- Disney aatcrchesr
- alilegl drugs
- action guifre
- The product kgicnpgaa

Answers – Synonym Match

1. b	2. f	3. d	4. i	5. c
6. g	7. e	8. a	9. j	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Barbie

You think Barbie is the best doll for kids. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their dolls. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Frankenstein, a T-Rex dinosaur or a soldier.

Role B – Frankenstein

You think Frankenstein is the best doll for kids. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their dolls. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Barbie, a T-Rex dinosaur or a soldier.

Role C – T-Rex dinosaur

You think a T-Rex dinosaur is the best doll for kids. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their dolls. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Frankenstein, Barbie or a soldier.

Role D – Soldier

You think a soldier is the best doll for kids. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their dolls. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Frankenstein, a T-Rex dinosaur or Barbie.

Speaking – Action figures

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| • Barbie | • Hello Kitty |
| • soldiers | • Barack Obama |
| • Mickey Mouse | • T-Rex dinosaur |
| • Frankenstein | • alien |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.